

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-24 (canceled)

25. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a spread-spectrum signal keyed with a first spreading code at a receiver;  
using a second spreading code which is shorter than the first spreading code to receive the spread-spectrum signal;

correlating the spread-spectrum signal with the second spreading code at the receiver; and

selecting the second spreading code to be as short as possible to still enable messages to be received with sufficient quality and reliability.

26. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission as claimed in claim 25, the method further comprising the steps of:

continuously assessing the quality of the received messages; and  
continuously adapting a length of the second spreading code to an instantaneous quality of reception such that an adequate quality of reception is achieved.

27. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission as claimed in claim 25, the method further comprising the step of:

determining the quality of reception with the aid of redundant codes which were used for channel coding of the messages.

28. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission as claimed in claim 25, the method further comprising the step of:

improving the quality of reception with the aid of error correction codes which were used for channel coding of the messages.

29. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission as claimed in claim 25, the method further comprising the step of:

defining the second spreading code to be a code segment of the first spreading code.

30. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a spread-spectrum signal keyed with a first spreading code at a receiver;  
using a second spreading code which is shorter than the first spreading code to receive the spread-spectrum signal;

correlating the spread-spectrum signal with the second spreading code at the receiver, wherein individual facilities of the receiver are at least one of intermittently turned off and operated at a lower clock frequency due to the second spreading code being shorter than the first spreading code.

31. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission as claimed in claim 30, wherein the intermittent turning off of the individual facilities of the receiver is controlled by a control device such that power consumption of the receiver is as low as possible with a predetermined quality of reception.

32. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission as claimed in claim 31, wherein shortened spreading codes are selected for two successive symbols of a message to be detected such that the individual facilities of the receiver can be turned off over coherent periods of time which are as long as possible.

33. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission as claimed in claim 30, the method further comprising the step of:

defining the second spreading code to be a code segment of the first spreading code.

34. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a spread-spectrum signal keyed with a first spreading code at a receiver;  
using a second spreading code which is shorter than the first spreading code to receive the spread-spectrum signal; and

correlating the spread-spectrum signal with the second spreading code at the receiver, wherein the second spreading code is extended to form a third spreading code which is also shorter than the first spreading code if the quality of reception is not adequate when the second spreading code is used.

35. (new): A method for receiving messages in a digital transmission as claimed in claim 34, the method further comprising the step of:

defining the second spreading code to be a code segment of the first spreading code.